

Message Text

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ACTION IO-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 EB-07 FEA-01 AEC-07 AID-05 CEA-01

CIAE-00 CIEP-02 COME-00 DODE-00 FPC-01 H-02 INR-07

INT-05 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-03 RSC-01 SAM-01

OES-05 SP-02 SS-15 STR-04 TRSE-00 FRB-01 PA-02 PRS-01

USIE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 ARA-10 EA-10 EUR-12

NEA-10 OIC-02 /146 W

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O R 152224Z NOV 74

FM USMISSION USUN NEWYORK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7511

INFO AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

UNCLAS USUN 5098

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: UNGA SENV

SUBJ: 29TH UNGA - SECOND COMMITTEE - ITEM 12, ECOSOC

REPORT (ENVIRONMENT) - UPPER VOLTAN DRAFT RES

A/C.2/L.1370

REF: USUN 5061

1. INFORMAL CONSULTATIONS ON A/C.2/L.1370 RESUMED AGAIN THIS A.M. (NOV. 17) WITH ATTENDANCE, IN ADDITION TO U.S., BY: AUSTRALIA, UPPER VOLTA, SWEDEN, BRAZIL, FRANCE, JAPAN, TUNISIA, NIGERIA, NEW ZEALAND AND IRAQ. ARGUMENTS PRESENTED IN REFTEL FOR BOTH PROPONENTS OF RES AS IT NOW STANDS AND THOSE WHO WISH TO SEE CHANGES REPEATED IN VARIOUS FORMS. ONE PERSISTENT THEME WORTH NOTING, HOWEVER, WAS FEELING THAT IT NOT WORTH ARGUING OVER WHICH BODY OF UN SHOULD HANDLE CONFERENCE, E.G., UEP, AND THE SENSE OF THE MEETING SEEMED TO BE THAT THERE IS NO REASON WHY SYG, WORKING WITH COORDINATING MACHINERY AS NOW PROPOSED IN RES, UNCLASSIFIED

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COULD NOT HANDLE CONFERENCE. ALMOST ENTIRE DISCUSSION

FOCUSED ON NEED TO CALL A CONFERENCE THIS GA, WITH VIEWS EXPRESSED, FOR EXAMPLE, THAT CONFERENCES LEAD TO NOWHERE (UK), THAT CONFERENCES ARE USEFUL TO MOBILIZE WORLD OPINION (AUSTRALIA), THAT THERE IS NO EVIDENCE TO SUPPORT VIEW THAT DESERTIFICATION IS OF SUCH A GLOBAL CONCERN THAT A CONFERENCE IS WARRANTED (US), ETC.

2. UK PROPOSED FOR CONSIDERATION THE FOLLOWING LANGUAGE FOR OP PARAS (ROUGH), WHICH BETTER REFLECT SENSE OF WEO GROUP THAN THAT PROPOSED IN REFTEL PARA 7, AND ACCORDINGLY WE SUGGEST DEPARTMENT USE UK LANGUAGE AS BASIS FOR AMENDMENT SHOULD IT DECIDE TO GO THIS ROUTE.

(A) OP PARA 1: DECIDES AS A MATTER OF PRIORITY TO LAUNCH A UN COUNTER-DESERTIFICATION PROGRAM, AND TO THIS END TO REQUEST (PICK UP ALL OF EXISTING OP PARA 2).

(B) OP PARA 2: FURTHER REQUESTS THE SYG IN COOPERATION WITH THE COMPETENT BODIES OF THE UN SYSTEM, IN THE LIGHT OF THE WORK TO BE UNDERTAKEN IN PURSUANCE OF PARA 1 ABOVE TO REPORT TO THE GA AT ITS 30TH SESSION ON WHETHER IT IS THE OPINION OF THE UN SYSTEM THAT IN ORDER TO GIVE THE LAUNCHING OF THE IMPLEMENTATION PHASE OF THE PROGRAM APPROPRIATE IMPETUS AN INTERGOVERNMENTAL CONFERENCE ON DESERTIFICATION SHOULD BE CONVENED, TOGETHER WITH A RECOMMENDATION AS TO WHEN THIS WOULD BE.

(C) OP PARA 3: SAME AS PRESENT OP PARA 3 EXCEPT AS FOLLOWS: AFTER UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME INSERT "WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE COORDINATING MACHINERY ESTABLISHED ABOVE"; AND A PERIOD AFTER REGIONAL ECONOMIC COMMISSIONS.

(D) PRESENT OP PARAS 4 AND 5 WOULD BE DELETED.

3. UPPER VOLTAN, SUPPORTED BY SEVERAL OTHER CO-SPONSORS, REJECTED UK LANGUAGE. ARGUMENT USED WAS THAT GOVERNMENTS RATHER THAN THE SECRETARIAT SHOULD DECIDE ON WHETHER TO HOLD A CONFERENCE OR NOT. WHEN IT WAS POINTED OUT THAT GOVERNMENTS WOULD HAVE A CHANCE TO REVIEW RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE SYG AT 30TH GA IT ARGUED THAT THE MATTER UNCLASSIFIED

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WAS URGENT. BOTH FRANCE AND US SAID THEY PROBABLY COULD SUPPORT UK LANGUAGE. JAPAN CURIOUSLY STATED IT COULD SUPPORT BOTH UK LANGUAGE AND EXISTING RES. OTHER WEO'S (SWEDEN, FRG, NEW ZEALAND) DID NOT COMMIT THEMSELVES TO UK LANGUAGE BUT PURSUED OTHER APPROACHES. BOTH US AND NEW ZEALAND WONDERED IF CONFERENCE COULDN'T BE A REGIONAL ONE, CONFINED TO AFRICAN CONCERNS. THIS ALSO REJECTED BY CO-SPONSORS AS WATERING DOWN INTENT OF RES.

4. INFORMAL CONSULTATIONS TO CONTINUE ON MONDAY
NOVEMBER 18.
BENNETT

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